

(NEW) 14. The process for making the granular detergent composition of Claim 13, wherein said oversized particles are re-introduced into any unit operation in said process or into said fluid bed granulator.

(NEW) 15. The process for making the granular detergent composition of Claim 12, further comprising the step of passing said granular feed stream through at least one pre-mixer before introduction into said fluid bed granulator and re-introducing at least a portion of said oversized particles to said pre-mixer.

(NEW) 16. The process for making the granular detergent composition of Claim 15, wherein said granular feed stream is passed through at least two pre-mixers and at least a portion of said oversized particles are reintroduced in either or both of said pre-mixers.

(NEW) 17. The process for making the granular detergent composition of Claim 13, further comprising the steps of passing said detergent agglomerates after said screening step to a finishing step and re-introducing at least a portion of said oversized particles after milling to said finishing step.

(NEW) 18. The process as claimed in Claim 12 further comprising the step of extracting undersized particles from said fluidized bed and re-introducing said undersized particles to said process.

(NEW) 19. The process as claimed in Claim 18 further comprising the step of passing said granular feed stream through at least one pre-mixer before introduction into said fluid bed granulator and re-introducing at least a portion of said undersized particles to said at least one pre-mixer.

(NEW) 20. The process as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said granular feed stream is passed through at least two pre-mixers and at least a portion of said oversized particles are reintroduced in either or both of said pre-mixers.

(NEW) 21. The process as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said fluidized bed granulator is an internally re-circulating fluid bed and undersized particles are re-circulated internally within the fluidized bed.

(NEW) 22. The process as claimed in Claim 16 further comprising the step of screening said granular feed stream upon exiting said pre-mixer to separate oversized particles and re-introducing said oversized particles to the process.

(NEW) 23. The process as claimed in Claim 22 further comprising the step of passing said granular feed stream through at least two pre-mixers, screening said feed stream upon exiting either or both of said pre-mixers to separate oversized particles and re-introducing at least a portion of said oversized particles in either or both of said pre-mixers.

(NEW) 24. The process as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said fluidized bed granulator is operated at a flux number within the range of from about 2.5 to about 4.5.

(NEW) 25. The process as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said fluidized bed granulator is operated at a Stokes number of less than 1.

(NEW) 26. A process for making a granular detergent composition comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a granular feed stream comprising at least at least two particles selected from the group consisting of spray dried detergent granules, wet detergent agglomerates, dry detergent agglomerates and detergent adjunct ingredients;
- b) passing said granular feed stream into at least one pre-mixer to form a detergent premix;
- c) optionally screening said detergent premix to separate oversized particles;
- d) passing said detergent premix into a fluidized bed granulator;
- e) at least partially agglomerating said detergent premix in said fluidized bed granulator to form detergent agglomerates;
- f) sizing said detergent agglomerates to separate oversized particles from said detergent agglomerates;
- g) optionally passing said detergent agglomerates to a finishing step; and
- h) re-introducing said oversized particles to said process.

(NEW) 27. The process as claimed in Claim 26, further comprising the step of milling said oversized particles before re-introduction into said process.

(NEW) 28. The process as claimed in Claim 26 wherein at least a portion of said oversized particles are reintroduced into any of said premixer, said fluidized bed granulator, said finishing step or any combination of said steps.

(NEW) 29. The process as claimed in Claim 28 wherein said premixer is a moderate speed mixer.

(NEW) 30. The process as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said fluid bed granulator is an internally re-circulating fluid bed and undersized particles are re-circulated internally within the fluidized bed.

(NEW) 31. The process as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said fluidized bed granulator is operated at a flux number within the range of from about 2.5 to about 4.5.

(NEW) 32. The process as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said fluidized bed granulator is operated at a Stokes number of less than 1.

(NEW) 33. A process for producing a detergent composition comprising forming detergent particles wherein at least about 50% by weight of said particles have a geometric mean particle diameter of from about 500 microns to about 1500 microns with a geometric standard deviation of from about 1 to about 2, wherein said particles are formed via at least partial granulation in a fluidized bed mixer/granulator wherein the amount of undersized particle in said process is controlled via the use of said fluid bed granulation and the amount of oversized particles is controlled via sizing and re-introduction to the process.

Conclusion

Support for these amendments is found in the claims as originally filed. These amendments are entered to bring the claims into conformance with 37 CFR §1.75; no new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Brian M. Bolam
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 37,513
(513) 627-7533

November 27, 2001
Customer No. 27752